

# Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust Newsletter

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FEBRUARY 2023



## A Message from our CEO and Trust Leader, Dan Morrow

As we draw to the end of this half-term, with the days already brightening and snowdrops beginning to bloom, it is with immense pride in the achievements of our children across our family of schools.

We have seen some superb learning and children who are genuinely excited to take responsibility for their education and journey, supported and guided by our staff team.

Thank you to you as the parents and carers for all of your support and the contributions you make to the fabric of our schools and community. This partnership, the foundations of a successful education for children is key and as we fully re-establish those links, relationships and opportunities I have no doubt that the children will flourish further.

All best wishes for half term

**Dan Morrow**

**CEO and Trust Leader**



Photograph from  
Exbourne Primary School

## Newsletter Highlights

A Message from our CEO and Trust Leader, Dan Morrow

The Promise School update

The Festival of Hope: Better Together

DMAT Careers Fair 2023

#Children'sMental HealthWeek

**Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust**

...everyone in our Trust.



# Meet our Staff

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## Susanne Kiff Deputy Trust Leader

I work closely with Dan Morrow the Trust Leader, overseeing the Trust and the strategic direction we are taking to ensure every child in our family of schools, receives the highest possible quality of education which ensures they are able to succeed. I have (amongst other things) responsibility for all of the operational functions of the Trust, I am able to use my experience from finance and operations managements to support the teams I work with and ensure they deliver a high quality service across all of our schools.

### **How would you describe your team/ people you work with?**

Every member of our Trust family of staff are inspirational, hardworking, dedicated and compassionate.



## Veronica Lloyd Richards Director of Education



I always knew I wanted to teach and so went straight from university to do my PGCE in London in 1999. I started as a music teacher then moved into middle leadership, first as a curriculum leader and then as a head of year. After a sabbatical year in Thailand and Cambodia working as a scuba diver, I joined the Future Leaders programme in 2008 and began my journey into senior leadership in two different schools in Westminster. Before joining DMAT, I was Head of Professional Development at Ark Schools leading on CPD and teaching and learning in a network of 38 schools.

### **How would you describe your team/ people you work with?**

The D Schools team and the principals of our schools are exceptional people who are driven by real moral purpose and an unfailing commitment to serve our communities. They are a special group of educators who I feel honoured to work alongside.

## Mark Butler Director of Infrastructure

My role looks after both the Digital and Estates teams across the Trust. Our estates team work extremely hard to provide the best facilities for our students and staff to learn and work in and our Digital team work to make sure that all of the equipment, services and infrastructure in those facilities is as good as it can be.

### **How would you describe your team/ people you work with?**

How do you describe a team of people that constantly give their all, go above and beyond and care far more than anyone outside of our Trust can know or understand?

[Read more staff blogs here](#)





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## Cradle to Career

At the start of the academic year, Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust have had the tremendous opportunity to engage in an exciting national project called Cradle to Career led by the Reach Academy in Feltham, West London.



### What is the Cradle to Career partnership?

It is a two-year partnership of likeminded academy trusts and schools, committed to studying ways of breaking down barriers to learning, especially for disadvantaged students. The partnership focuses on four key threads:

1. Vision of excellence and developing great teachers
2. Developing and enacting a great all-through curriculum
3. Strong, trusting relationships with children, families, community
4. Understanding your community and developing a locally appropriate operating model

The values and ambition of the partnership very much chime with those of Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust and our desire to provide the very best teaching and learning through the development of all our teaching staff into excellent practitioners. To also ensure that all our young people have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. To develop a consistent relational approach across our academies and our communities to develop strong, trusting relationships. To listen to our parents and young people and to better understand our different communities and so offer appropriate support for parents and the community more generally.

## The Promise School: new build project update

Construction work on the new build for The Promise School continues and is looking amazing. The original completion date for the school has shifted from 8 March to 23 March. This is mainly due to the poor weather in December and delays to the fitting of the school's electricity meter.

Despite this delay, the building itself is looking fantastic. Much of the focus by the contractors is now on finishing any electrical work, decorating the inside of the building, and working on the school grounds.

The shift in completion date now means that the anticipated hand over date of the building to the Trust will be 23 March. We then have a window of time between 23 March and 17 April to move in and ensure that the school is ready for pupils and staff to transition into the new building from 19 April onwards. If you are interested in following progress of the build, don't forget to check the site 'build cam' which can be viewed [here](#)

# Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

## Careers Fair

Open evening for parents and students  
8th of March 2023



Official event sponsor:  
**WILLMOTT DIXON**  
SINCE 1852

We are excited to let you know about our Trust wide Careers Fair for Years 9 -13 to be held at The Ashbury Hotel near Okehampton. This inaugural event will have a wide variety of representatives from universities, the world of work and apprenticeship providers.

Students will be attending the event during the school day with transport provided. Additionally, there will be the opportunity for students to return with their parents on the Wednesday evening with:

- 4.30pm – 5.30pm for a quieter session for SEN students and Parents
- 5.30pm – 7.00pm for all parents and students

We hope that we will see you there. If you can [follow the link](#) or scan the QR code to register your interest, this would be helpful, otherwise turn up on the evening and enjoy the event.  
We hope you can come along!

Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust  
...everyone in our Trust.  




## The Festival of Hope 2023: Better Together



**Our Festival of Hope returns for a month long celebration in March.**

This year's festival will run from 6th - 31st March 2023 and the theme will be 'Better Together'. The goal is to bring all the schools together in the Trust and spread the message that everyone is part of something bigger and to increase student aspirations.

Sporting events have been planned, a reading programme that runs across the primaries and secondaries, a travelling art exhibition with submissions from all schools and a new song has been written for the Trust. We are also looking for schools to set up their own community events and encourage parents, carers and the wider community to join in the festival in some way

### Dates for your Diary

**w/c 27th Feb**  
FoH song recording week

**w/c 13th March**  
Art Exhibition @ TCC

**14th March**  
Indoor and Ability athletics @ HCC

**w/c 20th March**  
Art Exhibition @ OCC

**23rd March**  
Netball @ TCC

**w/c 27th March**  
Art Exhibition @ HCC

**30th March**  
Football @ OCC

# What's new in our Schools?



## St James C of E Primary School Project Playground.

The St James C of E primary School council and The Friends of St James have joined forces to plan and execute a pupil-approved fundraising project. The group reached a consensus that a trim trail style adventure playground would be a much needed addition to the current provision, encouraging good quality active playtimes and also being an additional resource for PE lessons.

A target of £20K worth of funding has been set by the group which will cover the cost of the equipment and its installation. The generous Friends of St James have already donated a considerable amount to the funding pot to kick off the campaign and the local community and businesses have also stepped into provide support so that St James reaches their target.

[A JustGiving page](#) has been set up, should anyone wish to donate directly to this fantastic project



Plan of the proposed project is above. The students have also created a funding thermometer to track the progress.



**Associate Principal Geraldine Carter** said:  
“I am so proud of the advocacy the children have demonstrated in developing and leading this project, one which is very important to them and families of St James. Teaching our pupils to use their voice in a positive way and for impactful change is an important aspect of our learning at the school, whilst also allowing the children to live our school values. We are extremely grateful for the work and support of The Friends of St James and everyone locally who has contributed towards these efforts, to date.”

## Tavistock College Oxford University success



Deciding upon your next steps is a critical part of a student's post-16 education, for those who apply to university, it is a challenging process, none more so for those who apply to Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford will only interview around 40% of applicants and less than 15% will receive an offer. This year, **Alice Stoate (Law), Oliver Crosher (Philosophy and Italian) and Shannon Howell (Economics)** from Tavistock College all made the 15% and have received offers from Oxford, pending their exam results.

*Principal Tristan Muller Foster wrote:*

“It is with genuine pleasure and joy that we have heard of these offers, it shows the incredible journey that students make here at the college and shows that we are able to prepare our young people for any destination they choose. The individuals concerned have shown such hard work and dedication and they are now reaping the rewards of this. They don't know it yet, but they will be role models for future generations and the whole community”

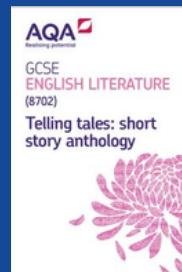
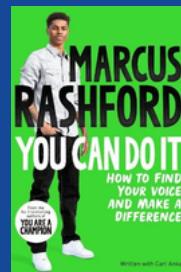
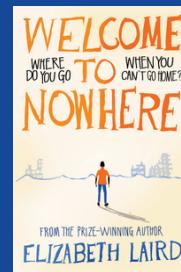
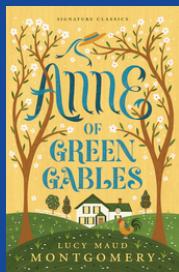
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# Okehampton College Literary Canon



Okehampton College launches its new Literary Canon, a collection of fantastic books to read during tutor time four mornings a week. 'Reading for just ten minutes a day exposes students to over 500,000 words a year, building vocabulary, developing reading ability and background knowledge, alongside the enjoyment of sharing an active reading experience as a tutor group. The reading curriculum at Okehampton College uses high-quality texts as a vehicle for sensitively introducing the children of our communities to both similar and contrasting lives, as well as developing a lifelong love of reading'.

**Annabel Skelton, Associate – Vice Principal**



## Holsworthy Community College's trip to France

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On the 5th January 40 Y10 and Y11 students and staff from Holsworthy Community College set off by coach and ferry on their long journey all the way to Paris for 4 days.

[You can read what the group got up to on each day here](#)

**The following article was written by Isabelle Tucker and Lucy Baker in Year 11**

Paris is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. It is an extremely diverse place to visit due to the natural beauty and the breathtaking monuments and architecture. From the 5th to the 9th of January, year 10 and 11 students spent 4 days exploring and learning about this beautiful country on our visit.

After a long night of travelling, we first went to the Christmas markets. There were so many stalls and so many souvenirs it was difficult not to spend a fortune within the hour. Not to mention this was a great opportunity to practise our french speaking in real situations. On day 2 we went to a french school to join in with their lessons, play some sports and look around the area. As well as learning about what French school is like compared to ours. But most importantly we were able to improve our language skills in a fun and enjoyable way by getting to know the students there. On our last full day in Paris (saving the best for last) we saw the Eiffel Tower and after a lot of queuing managed to go up and overlook the city. The river Seine showed us even more of Frances beautiful architecture such as the notre dame and the Louvre.

C'était très amusant!



# Okehampton College Student wins Young Writer competition.

In the Jan/Feb edition Oke Links magazine, ran a competition to find budding young journalists to feature about what life is like for them in the area. After many entries from some of our other Trust schools and wider community, the article of Year 8 students Bill Clatworthy Edwards stood out with its lively style and vivid descriptions.

*What comes to mind when someone mentions teenagers? Moody? In gangs? Always on computer games? Monosyllabic?*

*It is true: I like going on computer games. But I much prefer browsing the bookshelves of Dogberry and Finch. Anthony Horowitz, Jk Rowling and Conan Doyle are my favourite authors. I am currently reading The Hound of the Baskervilles, a mystery set on Dartmoor.*

*You can see exactly why Conan Doyle set his famous book on the moody, mysterious and melancholic moors. The body of a man is found on the spooky moorland with the pawprints of a gigantic hound surrounding it. Sherlock Holmes sends Dr John Watson down to Dartmoor to investigate the supernatural crime.*

*My favourite walk on the moors is less spooky; going up the Skaigh Valley towards Belstone. Walking on the leafy lane, picking my way carefully over exposed roots and loose stones, the damp smell; earthy and a bit like a wet dog sometimes! My constant companions are my two normal sized dogs! Adventuring off and searching for birds, squirrels and rabbits to chase, they are normally unlucky!*

*If you are lucky, you could see deer running out onto the lane or a barn owl glide silently down at dusk, or otters swimming in the local river. Seeing snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells, and breathing in the strong scent of wild garlic reminds me of how fortunate we are to live in such a rural area.*

*Okehampton also offers more strenuous activities for young people such as abseiling, gorge scrambling and cycling with Adventure Okehampton. I like the excitement and fun of climbing up trees and on tors, and I go cycling along the granite way. You can also go mountain biking in the forests and on the moors.*

*Some may say there is nothing to do for 'the youth of today', but if Okehampton isn't enough, It's just a quick train ride from Okehampton Station up to Exeter. I enjoy activities like the Clip and Climb Centre, the cinema, the theatre, the shops, and I can meet up with friends there.*

*So next time you hear the word 'teenager' remember we are more than a stereotype!*

Bill Clatworthy Edwards



[See the whole article here](#)



# #Children'sMentalHealthWeek



**Holsworthy Community College** have taken part in a "Wellbeing Week" in partnership with Place2B. We were proud to support Place2be's Children's Mental Health Week and offered a huge range of activities throughout the week

Wellbeing week consisted of

- Daily assemblies about "being connected"
- Bespoke tutor programs for wellbeing
- Launch of peer to peer support "Students Helping Students" which took place daily
- Tai Chi sessions at lunchtime
- Wellbeing Fair – attended by over 400 and in conjunction with Holsworthy Primary School, Holsworthy Children's Centre, Holsworthy ACF, Devon Children Services, The Wellbeing Service, Devon and Cornwall Police, Nurture to Nature and consisted of – healthy sleep, emotion coaching and feelings, promoting community activity, Restorative practice and mindful eating and exercise
- Bake sale to raise funds for the charity which totalled £192
- Dress to express yourself day

*Sarah Hallett, DSL at HCC said "The whole week has been a hive of positive wellbeing vibes and I am proud of our school leading from the front to promote community connections and wellbeing.*

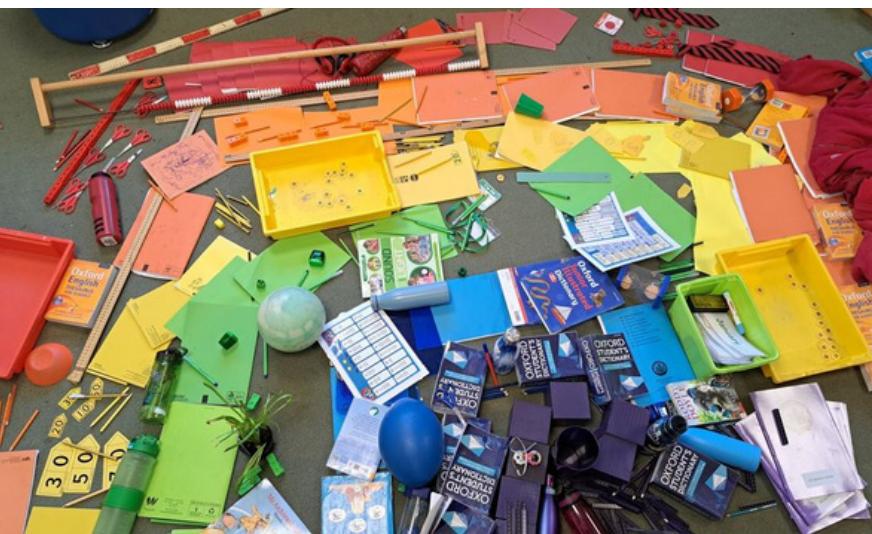
*The Wellbeing fair was a great success and will be an annual event going forward, and I am confident it will grow each year due to the pressures and demands on children, young people and families in the Holsworthy area. I am incredibly grateful to the agencies who supported the Wellbeing Fair, along with Holsworthy College's House Champions and House Captains for all of their efforts in making the week so successful, we would not have achieved it without them!"*



Mrs Hallett and Mrs Greener giving an assembly to students



The children of **Exbourne Primary School** have been taking part in the Taskmaster and Place2Be's Treasure Hunt for Children's Mental Health Week. Each day, they have had a different task to complete. On Monday Children made the best rainbow they could, on Tuesday they designed a new outdoor game using a maximum of one piece of equipment and 3 instructions and on Wednesday they found things outside to make the best self portraits of themselves.



Students from **Okehampton Primary School** have also been taking part in the Task Master challenges. Children from King Tor's made this brilliantly bright rainbow on the left. Well done everyone!



# Sporting events

Devon County Schools Cross Country Championships. Congratulations to Thomas Hennessy Y7 Student, who led from the front to win the minor boys race and claim the Devon County School's title. Excellent racing and some very impressive results from all the students.



Thomas had won the Devon Schools' title and had claimed bronze in the South West Inter-Counties Championship last month. Five Tavistock College runners competed for Devon during the first weekend in Feb. Tom was joined by Alistair Graham, Lormorna Cox, Fynn Baker and Hannah Walker. Well done all!

A huge party of Chagford Primary pupils headed off to Simmons Park in Okehampton last week to take part in an inter-school Cross Country competition. As ever, the children made the school very proud. Their conduct was excellent and every child put in their very best effort.



Some Highampton Primary Schools Year 5 and 6 pupils represented the Ruby Hub at the High 5 Netball tournament – it was great fun to take part alongside teammates from Bradford and Black Torrington. The players showed great teamwork, sportsmanship and skill.

Congratulations to Okehampton College U15 girls' indoor cricket team. They have been crowned Exeter and Mid Devon Indoor Cricket winners 2023 and will go on to represent the area in the County Finals in March.



# Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

## Careers Fair

8th & 9th March 2023

Official  
event  
sponsor:



### Free Trade stands still available!

Not long now until Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust hold it's first ever Careers Fair!

The Dartmoor Trust Careers Fair is for Years 9 - 13 from our 3 secondary colleges taking place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March to be held at The Ashbury Hotel near Okehampton.

With a variety of trade stands, a programme of speakers for students to experience and an open evening for parents to attend with a separate quieter session for SEN pupils and their families, we are confident this will be a successful event and of huge benefit to our young people.

**With less than 30 days to go, Please complete this form  
<https://forms.office.com/r/TLFgTeZWWH> or scan the QR code  
to book your space and supply us with further details.**

We hope you can come along!



Dartmoor  
Multi Academy  
Trust

...everyone in our Trust.



Kindly Supported by



# Careers with us

## Primary School Vacancies

Primary Classroom Teacher – SEMH School  
The Promise School

**Work Pattern:** Full time  
**Salary:** TPS  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 20th February 2023

KS2 Teacher  
Milton Abbot Primary School

**Work Pattern:** Full-Time  
**Salary:** Teacher Pay Scale  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 28th February 2023

EYFS Foundation Stage Practitioner  
South Tawton Primary School

**Work Pattern:** 18 hours per week, term time  
**Salary:** Grade B £20,441 full time equivalent (£10.60 per hour)  
**Job Term:** Fixed term to 31.08.2023  
**Closing Date:** 20th February 2023

Lunchtime Playleader (MTA)  
Okehampton Primary School

**Work Pattern:** 7.5 hours per week, 12:00 - 1:30pm Mon-Fri, 38 weeks per year  
**Salary:** Grade A1 £10.50 per hour  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 19th February 2023

## Secondary School Vacancies

Teacher of History  
Okehampton College

**Work Pattern:** Full time - 32.5 hours per week, 39 weeks per year  
**Salary:** TPS  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 27th February 2023

Teacher of Computer Science  
Tavistock College

**Work Pattern:** Full-Time  
**Salary:** TPS + TLR2b  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 31st March 2023

Director of SEND  
Okehampton College

**Work Pattern:** 32.5 hours per week, 39 weeks per year  
**Salary:** L6–L10 (£50,122 to £55,360)  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 22nd February 2023

Teacher Of Music or Head of Creative Arts  
Holsworthy Community College

**Work Pattern:** Full Time  
**Salary:** TPS + TLR 2a for Head of Creative Arts  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 28th February 2023

## Trust Vacancies

Trust Education Welfare & Inclusion Lead  
DMAT based in Okehampton but with travel between sites and some flexible home working

**Work Pattern:** 37 hours per week, 52 weeks per year  
**Salary:** SCP34-37 £40,478 - £43,516  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 10th February 2023

Trust Governance Professional & Stakeholder Champion  
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust - Hybrid Remote

**Work Pattern:** 32.5 hours/52 weeks per year  
**Salary:** £22,369.00 per year (Full-Time Equivalent)  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 17th February 2023

Pensions Administrator/Payroll Co-ordinator  
Holsworthy Training and Business Centre

**Work Pattern:** Full-Time  
**Salary:** E – (£26,357 to £29,439)  
**Job Term:** Permanent  
**Closing Date:** 10th February 2023

**For more information and how to apply, follow the link to our website here.**

# Keep up to date



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